

the frame members, and vehicle axles coupling, in a relatively rotatable fashion, each of said guided devices to the movable body, said conveyance apparatus further comprising:

a plurality of lateral travel rail members on a lateral side of a prescribed region of the fixed path, wherein:

said travel rail members support and guide the guided devices wherein the frame member provided with the supporting section assumes an orthogonal position with respect to a direction of travel, and the other frame members align with the direction of travel, and branching means in the prescribed region cause the guided devices on the main rail to branch off onto the plurality of lateral travel rail members, and guided devices of preceding and following movable bodies adjacently positioned in the direction of travel are coupleable together in response to a plurality of movable bodies being supported and guided on the lateral travel rail member.

2. (Previously Presented) The conveyance apparatus using movable bodies according to claim 1, wherein a front frame member, a middle frame member and a rear frame member form the main body of the movable body, the middle frame member containing the supporting section, and the lateral travel rail members comprise a pair and the front frame member aligns with one of the lateral travel rail members, and the rear frame member aligns with the other lateral travel rail member.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The conveyance apparatus using movable bodies according to claim 1, wherein motional force applying means are provided for applying motional force to a movable body supported on the plurality of lateral travel rail members.

5. (Previously Presented) The conveyance apparatus using movable bodies according to claim 1, wherein a working path section for conveyed items is formed in the prescribed region.

6. (Previously Presented) The conveyance apparatus using movable bodies according to claim 1, wherein the movable body has passive surfaces on side faces of the frame members, and feeding means having feed rollers abutting the passive surfaces is provided in the fixed path.

7. (Original) The conveyance apparatus using movable bodies according to claim 1, wherein said branching means comprises a plurality of divided rail members, formed by dividing the main rail in the prescribed region and capable of supporting the guided devices, and rotating devices for causing these divided rail members to rotate about vertical axes.

8. (Withdrawn) The conveyance apparatus using movable bodies according to claim 1, wherein said branching means branch off all of the movable bodies arriving at the prescribed region in the fixed path onto the plurality of lateral travel rail members.

9. (Currently Amended) The A conveyance apparatus using movable bodies, each movable body movable along a fixed path by means of a plurality of guided devices, said guided devices supporting and guiding said movable body on a main rail, each movable body having a main body formed by a plurality of frame members connected with connecting devices in a relatively rotatable fashion in a traverse direction with respect to a longitudinal direction, a supporting section for conveyed items provided in at least one of the frame members, and vehicle axles coupling, in a relatively rotatable fashion, each of

said guided devices to the movable body, said conveyance apparatus further comprising:

a plurality of lateral travel rail members on a lateral side of a prescribed region of the fixed path, wherein:

said travel rail members support and guide the guided devices wherein the frame member provided with the supporting section assumes an orthogonal position with respect to a direction of travel, and the other frame members align with the direction of travel, and branching means in the prescribed region cause the guided devices on the main rail to branch off onto the plurality of lateral travel rail members, wherein the frame members other than the frame member provided with the supporting section assume an orthogonal attitude in a same direction, with respect to the frame member provided with the supporting section.

10. (Original) The conveyance apparatus using movable bodies according to claim 1, wherein the movable body is provided with a supporting section for conveyed items in a lower portion of at least one of the frame members.

11. (New) The conveyance apparatus using movable bodies according to claim 9, wherein a front frame member, a middle frame member and a rear frame member form the main body of the movable body, the middle frame member containing the supporting section, and the lateral travel rail members comprise a pair and the front frame member aligns with one of the lateral travel rail members, and the rear frame member aligns with the other lateral travel rail member.

12. (New) The conveyance apparatus using movable bodies according to claim 9, wherein motional force applying means are provided for applying motional force to a movable

body supported on the plurality of lateral travel rail members.

13. (New) The conveyance apparatus using movable bodies according to claim 9, wherein a working path section for conveyed items is formed in the prescribed region.

14. (New) The conveyance apparatus using movable bodies according to claim 9, wherein the movable body is provided with a supporting section for conveyed items in a lower portion of at least one of the frame members.